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Letter to the Editor

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Letter to the Editor

To My Fellow Catholic Medical Association Members and Friends:

I had the opportunity to conduct a survey this year of 25% of our membership to try and find out what members expect from the CMA and how well we are fulfilling their needs. The most common reasons for joining are to stay current in Catholic moral teachings and to associate with other Catholic physicians trying to live their faith in their everyday practice.

In regard to meeting your needs, you let us know we have work to do. You want more help with functions on the local level, informative communication from us on a regular basis, a directory to help you identify members in your area and you would like to see the CMA have more of a voice on the national scene. We are determined to meet your requests.

Dr. Lynne Bissonette-Pitre, a Regional Director, is in the process of developing a guide to be used by Regional Directors and physicians seeking "How to form a guild" information; we will be sending bigger and more informative newsletters on a regular basis highlighting activities on the local level and a membership directory to help identify members near your home with whom you might wish to associate.

As far as getting the CMA some national exposure, my wife Joyce and I were privileged to be invited, representing the CMA, to the White House for President Bush's speech supporting the Brownback-Landrieu bill, "The Human Cloning Prevention Act," on April 10. Your CMA Board authorized the sending of "Homosexuality and Hope" to all the Bishops with a cover letter from our Episcopal Advisor Bishop Vasa in preparation for their meeting. Rod Dreher, Senior Writer for the *National Review*, recognized and lauded our effort in his June 13 article.

We are determined that this is just a beginning but as always we need your help and support. I am amazed in going around the country how few Catholic physicians are aware of our existence. You can help us by getting the word out and, last but not least, we would not exist without your financial support.

God bless you and yours.

**- Robert J. Saxer, M.D.
President
Catholic Medical Association**